

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-7 is respectfully acknowledged.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10 as anticipated by the Willcox Patent No. 2,789,824 from 1952.

Applicant has amended claim 8 to distinguish over the disclosure in the '824 Willcox reference by calling for the groove in the platform to be horizontal rather than inclined as suggested in Willcox. Further, claim 8 as amended calls for an inclined chute designed to provide sufficient momentum for golf ball so that the golf ball travels along the horizontal groove with enough momentum to reach the platform opening.

While Willcox does show a steeply inclined ramp 24, the groove in the platform is also inclined. Therefore the Willcox fails to show or to suggest an inclined chute that is only steep enough to provide sufficient momentum to deliver a ball across the horizontal groove in the horizontal platform.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection levied under 35 U.S.C. § 1.02, and submits that as amended claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art generally and the Willcox Patent Reference No. 2,789,824 in particular.

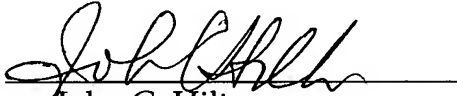
Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and should be allowable therewith. However, in addition to the limitations presented in claim 8, claim 9 calls for a tensioned element coupled to the ball escapement means and to the tee supporting and moving means, the tensioned element being driven by the single revolution motor. In the Willcox '824 Patent, the motor 62 operates through a gear reduction unit 64 and a cam mechanism 68/66/76 to raise and lower the compound lever arrangement. While the lever arrangement itself is tensioned by tension spring 60, there is no suggestion of a tensioned element that is driven by the motor itself as shown in the present application, and as called for in claim 9. Claim 10 depends from claim 8 and merits favorable consideration for the reasons presented above with reference to amended claim 8. In addition, claim 10 calls for a "lever balance" to sense the

presence of a ball supported by the tee, and operable in the absence of a ball or other force downward on the tee to trigger the means for cyclically moving the tee. While Willcox '824 Patent disclosure suggests a microswitch 106 that is allegedly capable of detecting movement of the lever 84, this microswitch is not equivalent to the "lever balance" as described in the subject application in the last paragraph on page 9. For example, in the preferred embodiment, a load cell or equivalent pressure sensor is required to meet the "lever balance" language of claim 10. While a microswitch is theoretically capable of serving this function, such a device is not sensitive enough to meet the requirements of golf ball teeing apparatus of the type that will stand up under the repeated golf swing of a typical customer at a driving range such as contemplated in the case of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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